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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1953.



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Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

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ULVERSTON,

August, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report  
of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres.	8,022
Population - Registrar-General's Estimate of home population.	10,280
Number of inhabited houses.	3,282
Rateable value.	£43,356
Amount produced by a Penny Rate.	£164

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North-Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying area flooded with water. Subsidence still occurs.

The male working population is largely employed in the shipyards and steelworks at Barrow and in agriculture. There has been a small increase in the number of light industries employing female labour.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for the year 1953 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

There has been a sharp drop in the number of live births and the number of deaths. Both figures are the lowest recorded for some years.

Of the 136 births registered, 74 were males, 3 being illegitimate, and 62 were females, of which 3 also were illegitimate.

Approximately 64% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart Disease 48, Malignant growths 23, Vascular lesions of the nervous system 21.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths- regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	Total		Neonatal	
									No. of deaths- regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths- regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1953	136	<sup>x</sup> 13.2	126	<sup>x</sup> 12.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	44	5	37
1952	165	16.0	143	13.8	3	18	1	5.95	5	30	4	24
1951	161	15.6	170	16.5	4	24	Nil	Nil	9	56	5	31
1950	155	14.7	143	13.5	4	25	Nil	Nil	6	39	3	19
1949	156	17.6	133	12.6	4	21	Nil	Nil	6	32	Nil	Nil
1948	184	17.5	136	12.9	3	16	Nil	Nil	14	76	Nil	Nil
Average 5 years 1948-1952	-	16.3	-	13.9	-	21	-	1.2	-	47	-	37
<sup>x</sup> Adjusted (Live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.08) = 14.3 per 1,000. (Death-rate (comparability factor, 0.97) = 11.9 per 1,000.												

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales.		160 Smaller towns 25,000-50,000 Population.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1949	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	17.6	12.6
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	15.8	13.1
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	16.9	16.0
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	17.2	13.4
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	14.3	11.9

Note: The birth and death rates quoted for the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District for the year 1949 are the crude rates. The remainder are the adjusted rates after correction for age and sex distribution.

#### STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L.WILD, M.A., M.B.,  
B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -  
Ulverston Urban District  
Council, Grange-over-Sands  
Urban District Council,  
Ulverston Rural District  
Council.

Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1 -  
Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-

W. W. Jackson, C.R.S.I.,  
M.S.I.A., Meat and Foods  
Inspector's Certificate  
R.S.I. Certificate in  
Sanitary Science as applied  
to Buildings and Public  
Works.

Other Appointments Held:-

Cleansing Superintendent -  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban  
District.  
Housing Officer Dalton-in-  
Furness Urban District.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supplies.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha Intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year.

The public supply now serves 3,248 houses direct and the number served by standpipes remains the same as before, namely, 13. As last year there are 21 houses supplied from private sources, but arrangements are now in hand to provide a supply by pump to 4 of these houses at Tythe Barn.

### Sewerage.

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Martin passes through settling tanks, the effluents being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given, the effluent being discharged into a nearby stream.

The number of houses on the water carriage system at 31st December, 1953 was increased to 3,239 by the connecting up of new houses. No conversions took place during the year and there remained 35 privy middens and 8 pail closets in the District.

### Housing.

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water systems and some are being allowed to fall into disrepair on account of the high cost of repairs and low rents. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness.

It was reported last year that a greater number of houses were in course of erection at the year end, and during 1953, 58 were completed by the Local Authority and a further 3 by private builders. At 31st December, 1953, 144 houses were in course of erection.

## Statistics.

### Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	51
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	202
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	3
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	5
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	3
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	51

### Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	33
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### Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

1.		Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:-	
	(i)	By owners.	Nil
	(ii)	By local authority in default of owners.	Nil
2.		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	13
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(i)	By owners.	9
	(ii)	By local authority in default of owners.	Nil



3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil
4. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil
- (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

#### Milk Supplies.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 -

No. of registered distributors operating from:-

(a) Dairies in the district	3
(b) Dairy Farms in the district	17
(c) Shops in the district other than dairies	1
(d) Premises outside the district	3

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 -

No. of dealers licences issued by the local authority during 1953	Tuberculin Tested" Milk	6
in respect of:-	"Accredited" Milk	Nil

The Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations, 1949-

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat treated" milk.	Retail distributors (a) "Pasteurised"	6
	(b) "Sterilised"	Nil

Results of Samples of milk taken in the District:-

Raw Milk:-	Number of samples.	Number satis- factory.	Number unsatis- factory.
Tuberculosis - biological tests	Nil	Nil	Nil
Methylene Blue reduction test	6	6	Nil
E. Coll. examinations	6	6	Nil



# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1948-1952 compared with the numbers in 1953.

Disease.	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953.		
						Number of cases.	Removed to hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.
Scarlet fever.	37	46	28	0	11	6	4	0
Measles.	185	3	100	36	47	298	4	0
Whooping Cough.	0	22	1	27	18	9	0	0
Pneumonia.	1	6	0	1	3	4	3	1
Dysentery.	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
Puerperal fever.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	2	2	5	3	4	2	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Polio-myelitis.	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
Para-typhoid fever.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Infective encephalitis.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Post-infective encephalitis.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Food Poisoning.	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0
TOTALS.	226	82	134	77	99	320	11	1

Apart from an outbreak of measles which began late in 1952 and continued throughout the 1st quarter of 1953, there was nothing of note in the notified infectious diseases. The number of cases of measles was the largest for many years.

Since 1st July, 1952, the policy has been adopted of disinfecting houses only after tuberculosis and smallpox. Bedding and clothing is still steam disinfected following all cases where these articles are likely to be a method of spread.

# Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1953.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Years	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
45-	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
55-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
	11		1		1		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1942	5	4	4	4	1	4	0	0
1943	12	5		5	3	2	0	0
1944	2	2	4	1	5	2	0	0
1945	13	7	1	2	7	1	0	0
1946	2	7	0	2	2	8	1	0
1947	9	6	4	3	2	1	1	0
1948	7	10	3	2	1	5	0	0
1949	10	4	1	2	2	0	2	0
1950	3	7	2	3	3	0	1	1
1951	6	8	2	2	3	0	2	1
1952	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
1953	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	9	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	34	58	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - 1951.

In August it was found that a man 88 years of age was living alone in insanitary conditions and unable to devote to himself proper care and attention. He was removed to Stanley Hospital in accordance with the provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, where he died on 3rd October 1953.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

## DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

In presenting to you this report on the work of the Health and Cleansing Department for the year 1953, it is pleasing to note that no abnormal circumstances occurred which would affect the town as a whole.

The supply of materials for repairs to property has become somewhat easier during the year. The labour position overall has also improved but the cost of carrying out repairs is still a very serious matter where the rent income is very low.

### Milk Supply.

All the samples of milk taken during the year for bacteriological examinations proved to be satisfactory. These are not numerous, since by far the greatest percentage of Dalton's milk supply is pasteurised at the Barrow Dairies.

### Food Supply.

Two hundred and twenty-four visits were made to various food shops in the town and I am glad to say that the general standard of cleanliness is very good.

It is this type of work where one of the greatest opportunities occurs to impress upon food handlers the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness.

The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

34 cans of milk	95 cans of fruit
66 cans of mixed vegetables	29 cans of meat
4lb. preserves	68 lbs. sausage
1 doz. savoury ducks	2 st. & 5 cans fish
26 pkts & 7lb. cheese	122 sponge puddings
5 cwt. meat	2 heads
1 ox tail	1 set lungs
1 hind quarters	16 pkts. coconut
87 pkts. almond & butter cracknels	2 pkts. cornflakes
2 bottles of sauce	1 bottle lemon squash
2 lb. sugared almonds	1 pkt. sweets
1 jelly	

### Offensive Trades.

This has been a satisfactory year and no trouble has been experienced at the seven fried fish shops and one Knacker's Yard.

### Ice-Cream.

There are now only two premises at which ice-cream is manufactured in this area, both of which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Samples are difficult to obtain as the manufacturing process is very irregular, being dependent upon the demand at the time, and it is often necessary to make a number of calls before a sample can be taken.

### Refuse Collection.

This service continues to operate without undue complaint except when the service was discontinued for the annual holiday.

The supply of dustbins has improved and latest quotations have shown a decrease in price.

I feel I must comment on the fact that refuse is disposed of at Elliscales tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of Elliscales tip is its isolated position.

There are thirty five privies, eight pail closets and thirty four dry ashpits in the area these being at out-lying premises.

During the year 79 tons of paper valued at £537, rags to the value of £32 and scrap metal to the value of £6 were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1952 were 61 tons of paper valued at £680 and rags to the value of £13.

### Housing.

With a total of fifty eight houses added to the Council's housing estate during the year we are at last making some impression on the list of persons waiting for accommodation and this makes our work in this direction much pleasanter. As we all know, many people cannot afford the rents which we are compelled to charge for new houses.

In conclusion I am happy to record the good feelings existing between various trades in the town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, the Medical Officer and other officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Atkinson and the cleansing staff without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. Jackson,

Sanitary Inspector.

